Message

From: Sonal Jessel (WE ACT) [sonal@weact.org]
Sent: 1/31/2023 5:27:00 PM
To: Garcia, Lisa [Garcia.Lisa@epa.gov]; Glenn, Olivia [Glenn.Olivia@epa.gov]; Benjamin, Arielle [Benjamin.Arielle@epa.gov]; McEathron, Kimberly (she/her/hers) [McEathron.Kimberly@epa.gov]; Caldwell, Lance [Caldwell.Lance@epa.gov]
CC: peggy@weact.org
Subject: WE ACT's Out of Gas, In with Justice Report is Out!

Dear Lisa and all,

After nearly two years of planning, WE ACT for Environmental Justice is excited to share the result of our Out of Gas, In With Justice pilot.

Out of Gas, In with Justice looked at the impacts on indoor air pollution when transitioning from gas to induction stoves. The pilot was conducted at 1471 Watson Avenue in the Bronx, which is slated to be the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) first all-electric building conversion. The study is the first in the United States to monitor indoor air quality in homes transitioning from gas stoves to electric induction stoves with residents in-place in affordable housing.

During WE ACT's 10-month air quality monitoring period, we found:

- Households with induction stoves experienced a **35 percent reduction** in daily nitrogen dioxide (NO2) concentrations compared to those using gas stoves, when controlling for temperature and apartment-level factors.

- 24-hour averages of carbon monoxide (CO) for households with gas stoves reached concentrations of 1.4 ppm whereas households with induction stoves had a 24-hour average of 0.8 ppm, a significant decrease.

- When cooking a standardized meal for the controlled cook test on both a gas and induction stove in the NYCHA development, **NO_2 concentrations in kitchens with gas stoves were on average 190 percent higher than in kitchens with induction stoves**,

- During focus groups with pilot participants, we found that participants unanimously **loved their new induction stoves** due to reasons like the ease of cooking, the time savings because the induction stove cooks faster and is easier to clean, the decreased reliance on other appliances, and the fact that the induction stove creates a safer cooking environment.

While air quality improvements in induction households were significant, the pilot found that NO2 from other sources – confounders that could potentially include the building's gas-powered boiler in the basement, cars traveling on adjacent streets, neighboring apartments with gas stoves, etc. – continued to impact household air quality.

Due to the discovery of air pollution from other sources, we believe that doing whole-building conversions that bundle short term improvements like stoves with larger retrofit projects, will have the greatest impact on indoor air quality and resident health.

You can download a copy of the Out of Gas, In with Justice report as well as a video of our participants' experiences with their induction stove here.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Thanks,

Sonal

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